

those of his wife who established the "Citizen of the Year" program and authors the "Up on the Hill" column which appears in the local paper.

After countless hours of working behind the scenes, the Rogers are being recognized for their outstanding commitment to the area. The First District of Florida is incredibly fortunate to have received the services provided by the Rogers and they will be remembered for their philanthropic efforts.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Doug and Estelle Rogers for their exemplary service to the community of Laurel Hill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on June 3, 2008. On Tuesday, June 3, 2008, I was unable to be present in the Capitol and missed rollcall votes Nos. 367 through 369. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 367, on H. Con. Res. 138, a resolution supporting National Men's Health Week, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 368, on H. Res. 923, a resolution recognizing the state of Minnesota's 150th anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 369, on H. Res. 1114, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day, I would have voted "aye."

DEDICATION OF THE SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the Sarasota National Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee, which played a valuable role in the recent groundbreaking and dedication ceremony for the Sarasota VA National Cemetery.

I also recognize cemetery director Sandra Beckly and VA Under Secretary William F. Tuerk for their involvement in the planning and celebration of this tremendous event. Furthermore, I want to express my deep appreciation to the estimated 3,000 people who gathered to celebrate this important milestone.

The Sarasota VA National Cemetery is an honor to the sacrifices of the many soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died on behalf of a grateful nation and to the accomplishments of all veterans whose service has allowed us to enjoy our American way of life.

The people of Florida's 13th District have been closely monitoring the progress we have made to establish a new national cemetery in Sarasota County. The timely completion of this project is a primary concern for area veterans and is one of my highest priorities.

We have 97,000 veterans in my congressional district and nearly 400,000 veterans

within the 75-mile radius that will be served by the new cemetery. Currently, the closest available VA cemetery is Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida, which is about 110 miles from the City of Sarasota.

I look forward to the day when area veterans and qualified family members can be memorialized with the honor and respect they deserve close to home at the Sarasota VA Cemetery in Sarasota.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, on May 21, 2008, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote No. 347, which was on consideration of the Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and in recognition of the individual and collective dedication and service of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association (CCBA) and the Cleveland Bar Association (CBA).

The CBA and the CCBA joined this year to create the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, which has a collective membership of over six thousand attorneys. The Cleveland Bar Association, founded in 1873, was one of the oldest bar associations in the country and was the largest provider of legal seminars in Ohio. The CCBA was founded in 1928 in protest of the exclusionary practices in Cleveland's legal profession at that time. The break-away CCBA drew its members from smaller firms and solo practices and reflected a diverse ethnic mix which included Jewish attorneys and others from the influx of attorneys from the Irish, Italian, Eastern European, and African-American southern migrations to Cleveland.

The unification of the CBA and CCBA in 2008 was a historic event which reflects the breaking down of ethnic, religious, racial, and socio-economic barriers which were so prevalent in Cleveland 80 years ago. The merger was made possible under the leadership of each bar association after 80 years of operating separately. Together the leadership of the former CBA and CCBA will ensure that the new Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will be one of the largest and most successful bar associations in the country, providing the Greater Cleveland area with an even greater variety of services and community work.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and appreciation of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and in recognition of the collective and individual efforts of the former CBA and CCBA, for their dedication and service to the Greater Cleveland community.

HAITI, BACK TO THE CRISIS STAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to call attention to the food crisis which threatens to have a worldwide impact; I want to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the New York CaribNews for the week ending April 22, 2008, "Haiti, Back to the Crisis Stage, Food Crisis and Riots Underscore Dire Economic and Social Conditions that Require Urgent Attention."

Rising food prices are fueling the global hunger crisis. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and oldest black sovereign state. It is sad to think of Haitians demonstrating and taking to the streets in order to call the world's attention to the fact ordinary people cannot afford to buy food. The World Bank estimates that food prices have gone up by 83 percent globally over the last 3 years. The country is struggling to stabilize itself and now rising food prices threaten the progress that has been made.

Haiti's need for assistance is a result of joblessness, high infant mortality, and dependence on imported food, inadequate health care services and poor educational opportunities. It is time for the international donor community to live up to the promises made to Haiti. The World Bank has outlined a strategy for the Government of Haiti, which includes helping the country to deliver rapid results, through jobs and basic services to foster development over the long term.

This article points out the critical need for not only long term solutions but short and interim term solutions to rush assistance to those in greatest need. The right type of assistance is paramount in maintaining stability in Haiti, allowing the country to continue to make progress towards self sufficiency, which will help bring an end to the suffering.

Haiti serves a wake up call to the potential looming global food crisis. It is taking an immense toll on the world's poorest people, who typically spend up to 80 percent of their income on food. After many years of working to end hunger and poverty, the United States and other developed nations must put forth bolder efforts to ensure progress is not lost in resolving global hunger.

HAITI, BACK TO THE CRISIS STAGE: FOOD CRISIS AND RIOTS UNDERSCORE DIRE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITION THAT REQUIRES URGENT ATTENTION

Just when people in different parts of the world, especially the Caribbean and the Haitian Diaspora, dared to dream that Haiti was on the mend and making progress, food riots broke out in the capital of Port au Prince a few day ago and they cost the Prime Minister, Jacques Edouard Alexis, his job.

And if some members of the Senate get their way, the next on the list would be President Rene Preval, the duly elected chief of state, who has brought a measure of stability to the French-speaking Caribbean nations, the oldest Black sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere.

Any attack on the President would be a tragedy.

Few people, if any at all, could get angry with the demonstrators for taking to the streets to let the world know that they are

hungry and need food at affordable prices. After all, as Michael Hess, a senior administrator of the United States Agency for International development, explained it, "people are making two dollars a day and we're seeing food prices go up around the world."

In other words, what do you expect when people are pushed up against the wall and don't have anywhere else to turn.

The dire food situation in Haiti and the social upheaval it caused have not only dramatized the crisis confronting developing countries as imported food and fertilizers go through the roof in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and other regions of the world but it points to the unstable economic and social conditions in Haiti.

Here's a country that is among the poorest of the poor and it is feeling the full force of escalating global food prices. It is clear that the current situation if not remedied soon can lead to mass starvation and undermine its government. In a country which has had more than its fair share of economic and social problems for more than two hundred years, the specter of widespread hunger should be enough to convince donor nations and development institutions that Haiti's problems can't be ignored any longer.

According to estimates by reputable international organizations, Haiti has enough food to satisfy its people's needs but the problem is that millions of nationals can't afford to buy it. That reflects both the chronic long-term poverty picture and the current nightmare of rising food costs. It is as if Haitians are caught between two crushing pinchers.

Obviously time is not on the side of Haitians, a nightmare that's evident in the prediction of aid organizations that the nutritional crisis can lead to further impoverishment. That would be a crying shame for several reasons.

First, the international donor community has promised much to Haiti but has often failed to live up to its word. Last weekends riots underscore the people's plight and the obvious need for prompt international action, a point made by Robert Zoelick, President of the World Bank.

We couldn't agree more.

Secondly, the pace of improvement has been too slow. There is a need to accelerate the rate of overall national development and not simply treat the food crisis as if it were an isolated phenomenon.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and its unstable political and economic picture is the result of indifference of some of its former leaders and exploitation by foreign governments and interests, especially the U.S. whose role in the country often ignored what's best for the people.

The country cries out for assistance. It has chronic problems of joblessness, high infant mortality, dependence on imported food, inadequate education and health care services and the like.

The riots which left at least seven people, including a Nigerian soldier attached to the United Nations military force, dead and millions of dollars in damage can erupt again if people become convinced that their appeals

for a long-term solution are falling on deaf ears.

So, it's important that a short, medium and long-term solution be implemented with the involvement of Haitians. Far too often tens of millions of dollars were set aside for the country's development but in the end the country remains poor. That's because the average Haitian was never the intended beneficiary. That has perpetuated a cycle of poverty that must be ended so that people there can enjoy the kind of economic success that we know is possible.

But Haitians too have a responsibility to push the process forward. The Haitian Diaspora has played its part, sending back more than \$4 billion to relatives since 2002 and many of the improvements in housing, for instance can be traced directly to the remittances. But the flow of that money is being threatened by the economic slowdown in the United States. It would be a pity because a reduction would heighten suffering. Coupled with the 50 percent rise in food prices since the middle of last year a cut in assistance and remittances would be a triple whammy, widening hunger, social upheaval and desperation.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT (FISA) OF 2008

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my support for H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. There is no more important responsibility that Congress is charged with than protecting the American people. H.R. 3773 seeks to find that most critical balance between protecting our security and protecting our liberty.

Without the proposed amendments, FISA Act creates a new "blanket" warrant program that would allow the government to conduct surveillance on groups of foreign targets who may contact U.S. persons, including surveillance of communications to and by such U.S. persons. The new blanket surveillance program authorized in H.R. 3773 allows the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General to apply for authority to conduct surveillance of foreign targets, or groups of foreign targets for up to 1 year or longer if necessary.

Additionally, the FISA Act allows the DNI and the Attorney General to begin surveillance activities without a warrant if they jointly believe that there is an emergency situation requiring surveillance to commence before a warrant could be issued.

This legislation allows our intelligence agencies to do their job effectively without trampling on the civil liberties that are the bedrock

of our great society. I hold the principles outlined in our Constitution dear and I will not give up those freedoms easily for a false sense of security. It is time for Congress to stand up for the morals and values that have made this country great, instead of rubber-stamping the policies of the current Administration, which have already cost this country enormously.

I urge all of my colleagues to end the political posturing and join me in support of H.R. 3773 so we can ensure that our national security and our civil liberties are protected.

CONGRATULATING ASU FOR WINNING THE 2008 NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Arizona State University softball team, winners of the 2008 Women's College World Series.

After finishing an excellent regular season and earning a spot in the WCWS under the leadership of Coach Clint Myers, the Sun Devils reached the cusp of a national championship on Monday, June 2, in a best-of-three series against the Texas A&M Aggies. In front of a record crowd of over 7,000 people at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, star pitcher Katie Burkhart threw an opening-game shutout and Krista Donnenwirth drove in all three of the Sun Devils' runs in a 3-0 win. The Sun Devils then clinched the title Tuesday, June 3, in a game that made the NCAA record books. They started off strong in the third inning, building a 3-0 lead, and did not let up until they had trounced the Aggies 11-0.

Not only did the Sun Devils set a record for the highest margin of victory in Women's College World Series history, but this win marked the first national title for ASU in softball. Arizonans and a national television audience shared in the excitement, pride and sportsmanship ASU's players displayed both on the field and in the dugout during this inspiring victory.

As an alumnus of Arizona State, I am honored and excited to see a team from my alma mater accomplish this feat. This is truly a victory for Sun Devils everywhere. The championship title has been a long time coming for this team, and these women showed that true dedication and persistence can indeed pay off.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable success of this team, whose achievements and camaraderie should be models for other teams across the country.